GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Rural Development – MGNREGS-AP – Proposal to clear the withheld payments for the works done during FY 2014-15 to 2018-19 for certain on-going works & certain closed works and permission to address the MoRD, GoI to re-open the closed works to enable the release of the withheld payments - Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 646 Dated: 15-11-2024

Read the following:

1. Govt Memo No.2530489/RD.II/A1/2024, dated:26.08.2024.
2. From the Director, PR&RD Lr.No.2518482/CPR&RD/EGS/PM (SP)/2024, Dated:16.10.2024 through e-file No.2518482
3. Vigilance report No.03/V&E/Engg/MGNREGS/2020, dt.06.02.2020 of General Administration (V&E) Department.
4. Govt. Memo No.1202/Vig.I/2020-4, dated:05.05.2020.
5. Govt. Memo No.1263069/RD.II/A1/2020, Dated:05.11.2020.
6. Govt. Memo No.1388361/RD.II/A1/2020, dated:12.05.2021.
7. Orders of the Hon'ble High Court, dated:12.10.2023 in W.A.No.723 of 2021 and batch.
8. Govt. Memo No.2242836/RD.II/A1/2023, dated:25.10.2023.

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ORDER:

The Director, PR&RD submitted that Sri P. Peeraiah, Ex-SEGC Council Member, YSR Kadapa has requested for release of pending payments for the works that were executed under MGNREGS in convergence with line departments during FY 2014-15 to 2018-19. In pursuance to it, the Government requested the Director, PR&RD vide reference 1st read above to submit procedure/steps to be followed along with details for releasing pending payments in respect of works executed during FY 2014-15 to 2018-19.

2. In reply, the Director, PR&RD submitted proposal vide reference 2nd read above. In the proposal, it was requested to examine and give directions on releasing pending payments for an amount of Rs.331.66 crore pertaining to 4.47 lakh works whose bills were uploaded for payment during 1-10-2018 to 31-05-2019.

3. The Director, PR&RD narrated certain important events that occurred from 1/10/2018 till date as given below:

a. An assurance (No.32) was given by the Government (the then Hon'ble Minister for PR&RD) in response to question No.230(105) dt:25/07/2019 in AP Legislative Assembly for conduct of a discreet

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inquiry by the Vigilance & Enforcement Department on the subject of "Misappropriation of Funds in Neeru-Chettu program"

b. Accordingly, the General Administration (V&E) Department enquired into the allegations based on various petitions received from general public and public representatives and submitted report vide reference 3rd read above.

c. Further vide reference 4th read above, the Government decided that all the material component works taken up under MGNREGS during the period from 1st October 2018 to 31st May 2019 shall be verified.

d. Accordingly, the District Collectors constituted 112 Vigilance teams with QC Engineers of PR, RWS&S, R&B and Irrigation Departments and these teams verified 11,918 works and submitted detailed report to the Government on 16th October, 2020.

e. The Government after examining the report, arrived at a recovery percentage of 21.02% for 7326 'line Department works' and 6.33% for 125 'RD works'. Accordingly, The Government accorded permission to release payments to 7,27,205 works costing upto Rs.5.00 lakhs duly deducting 21.02% for Line Department works and 6.33% for RD works vide reference 5th read above.

f. Subsequently, on the similar lines, Government accorded permission to release pending payment of the works above Rs.5.00 lakhs duly deducting 21.02% for Line Department works and 6.33% for RD works vide reference 6th read above.

g. The orders of Government were implemented by paying an amount of Rs. 1285.63 Crore to the material suppliers duly deducting 21.02% for Line Department works and 6.33% for RD works.

h. Meanwhile, the material suppliers have filed batch of writ petitions in Hon'ble High Court requesting release of withheld payments. In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court vide reference 7th read above, the Government issued instructions to conduct an enquiry after affording to the petitioners an opportunity of being heard in case of 275 WAs covering 1139 works before clearing the pending payments vide reference 8th read above.

4. Therefore, the Director, PR&RD, AP has requested the Government vide reference 2nd read above to examine and give directions on the following points in view of the Hon'ble High Court Orders in W.A.No.724 of 2021, dated.12.10.2023 and in pursuance to representations:

i. to clear the withheld payments of Rs.61.14 Cr for 17,657 ongoing works which were not verified by the Vigilance teams but imposed recovery as per the Government orders.

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ii. to clear the withheld payments of Rs.132.80 Cr against 4,23,014 closed works and permission to address the MoRD, GoI to reopen 4,23,014 works which were closed.

iii. to clear the withheld payments of Rs.90.09 Cr for 3,442 ongoing works which were verified by the Vigilance teams by conducting an enquiry after affording to the petitioners an opportunity of being heard as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court.

iv. to clear withheld payments of Rs.47.63 Cr for 3,231 closed works which were verified by the Vigilance teams by conducting an enquiry after affording to the petitioners an opportunity of being heard as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court and permission to address the MoRD, GoI to reopen 3,231 works which were closed.

5. Government, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby accord approval to the proposal at para-(4) above. It is also ordered that there is no need for enquiry with respect to the items (iii) and (iv) in view of the Hon'ble High Court Orders in W.A.No.724 of 2021, dated:12.10.2023.

6. The Director, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, A.P, shall take further necessary action in the matter, accordingly.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance (FMUPR&RD,RWS) Department, U.O.No.2621230/FIN01-FMU0PC(PRRD)/132/2024-FMU-PRRD RWS, dated:15.11.2024.

8. Copy of this order is available online and can be accessed at address https://goir.ap.gov.in.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director, PR&RD, AP, Tadepalli, Guntur District.
Copy to:
The GA(Cabinet-I)Department.
The Finance(FMU-PRRD&RWS) Department
The PS to Secretary to Hon'ble CM.
The OSD to Deputy Chief Minister (PR&RD, RWS, EFS&T).
The OSD to Chief Secretary to Government, AP.
The PS to Principal Secretary to Government (PR&RD).
SF/SC (e -File Computer No.2592882).

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER